

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Bethel Church rebounds from Katrina

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

SINCE 1877

R 27, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 38

OCT 3 2007



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

More than 60 people were sheltering in the fellowship hall of Bethel Church in Pearl River Association when Hurricane Katrina passed over in late August 2005 and surgically removed the roof.

"What was left of the roof was found later in Buck Branch Creek, 50 yards away," said Pastor Floyd Davis.

Needless to say, it's a day those 60 people won't soon forget. The story had a happy ending as everyone scurried to the Family Life Center next door, which miraculously escaped serious damage and played a crucial response and relief role in the surrounding community for many months after the hurricane.

The Family Life Center served as a Red Cross shelter, and members utilized it as a distribution point for food, clothing, and other essential items. At peak, the church was providing more than 350 meals per day to the surrounding community.

"It was the only useable building in a wide area," said Dena Baltimore, the church's secretary. "We cleaned it up after the storm and used it for the next 18 months. We held church services in there until we moved back into the Sanctuary on June 17 of this year."

"God provided. We hardly ran out of anything before it was replaced. You could see God's hand in all that was happening."

Most of the main church building had to be torn out to the studs after Katrina, Davis



NEW SANCTUARY — Carl Myers (left) missions director for Pearl River Association, talks with Floyd Davis (center), pastor of Bethel Church, and Dena Baltimore, church secretary, in the church's restored sanctuary. Hurricane Katrina nearly destroyed the main church building, fellowship hall, and Sunday School space so new that it had not yet been occupied. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

said. "Before the storm, there was a two-story education addition that wasn't even finished. Katrina ruined it, but now we have a full nursery, space for toddlers and preschoolers, and so much more."

"It's like we're pre-positioned to reach out to the community."

Davis and Baltimore praised the volunteers who came from across the U.S. to help restore Bethel Church. Steve Howard, the church's bivocational music minister, took on the task of supervising the reconstruction.

"Steve was phenomenal. He has a full-time job, serves as music minister, and oversaw all the building that was going on. We wouldn't be where we are without him," Davis said.

Volunteers, donated construction materials and labor, and financial gifts — including more than \$250,000 from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board — helped the church to restore itself, provided a sense of normalcy around the devastated area, and served as a beacon for the community.

Baltimore said pre-Katrina worship services usually ran about 160 people. Worship attendance currently stands at about 130, she said.

"There are about 186 seats in the Sanctuary, and it's been full on several occasions," Davis said. "There are a tremendous number of people moving into our area from farther south and from Louisiana. We're excited about that. We want to reach out to them."

"The church did what the church should do," said Carl Myers, missions director for Pearl River Association. "It sent a powerful message about Jesus to the community, through its actions."

Pearl River Association opened its conference facility at McNeil to volunteers, Myers said, housing more than 3,700 people in the first year after Katrina. "A majority worked in the association, but there were others who spread out all across the Gulf Coast," he said.

"Immediately after the storm, the church had no idea how we could return to normal, or how to pay for all that had to be done," Davis said. "The church has learned patience, and to wait on the Lord. He is in control, and the church learned to be totally dependent on Him to provide what we needed."

"Since Katrina, there has been so much tension and disarray in the lives of families. God and His people have given us the ability to reach out to those hurting families, help put them back together, and get them into church," Davis said.

"We're excited about that. We're asking the Lord to show us the way."

Henderson Point bids rejected

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The top bid for the Henderson Point property in Harrison County was rejected September 24 as insufficient by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"We appreciate all the bidders' interest, but we concluded that the submitted bids did not meet our expectations regarding the value of the property. In light of our responsibility to the churches of the convention, we will be exploring other options for the sale of the property at the best possible price," said Gary Richardson, chairman of the Executive Committee and pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed the MBCB-owned Gulfshore Baptist

Assembly on Henderson Point in August 2005, and messengers to the 2006 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention voted to sell the 34-acre, beachfront property.

Bids were accepted through September 21 and opened during a special meeting of the Executive Committee on September 24.

Richardson said the Executive Committee decided not to release the names of the bidders or the amount of the bids, due to the fact that the property is still on the market. "As stewards, we don't want to do anything that might adversely affect the value of the property as we move forward," he said.

For more information on the Henderson Point property, visit www.mbc.org.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:

Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 131 • NUMBER 38
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Big Alcohol takes aim at young people

Media watchers have complained for years about the alcohol industry's blatant campaign to market their products to children. Many of these media watchers have no particular religious affiliation; they just want what's best for the nation's children. From all indications, that's not what the alcohol industry wants.

The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., has just released the explosive results of yet another study that proves beyond a doubt what the alcohol industry is up to.

The study, titled Youth Exposure to Alcohol Advertising on Radio, 2006, analyzed 337,602 alcohol product advertisements in 28 of the largest radio markets in the U.S. in 2006. The key findings:

- In 2006, more than a third of advertising placements for alcohol products in 28 of the largest radio markets (120,299 or 35.6%) were on programming that youth, ages 12-20, were more likely to hear on a per capita basis than adults.

- Advertisements on programming that youth were more likely to hear than adults accounted for more than half (58%) of youth exposure to alcohol advertising on the radio.

- Approximately one in twelve alcohol advertisements (27,682 or eight percent) were on programming with youth audience compositions greater than the alcohol industry's voluntary maximum of 30%, and 18 out of 143 brands placed 20% or more of their advertisements above that threshold.

THE EVE OF DISASTER



utes per week while 94% of females in this age group are tuned in, listening on average 14 hours per week."

One need not be a marketing executive to understand the gravity of those numbers. In the all-important youth demographic, it's a dream come true for the alcohol industry which, like the tobacco companies, must recruit new users to replace those who die from the effects of a lifetime of physical debasement from using their products.

"Although communities across the nation have made significant efforts to reduce youth access to alcohol, underage drinking remains a widespread and tragic public health problem," CAMY reports. By their senior year in high school, 45% of young people report drinking with the past 30 days, and 25% reported binge drinking of five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks, CAMY states.

Anheuser-Busch Cos., Inc., of St. Louis, one of the largest pushers of alcoholic misery in the country, predictably dismissed the study in a statement quoted by Associated Press. "Preventing underage drinking is about preventing youth

access to alcohol, not about what a teen does or doesn't hear on the radio," said company Vice-President Carol Clark.

Now, how's that for intellectual dishonesty? Clark says teens don't drink because of what they hear on the radio, while her company is a large and influential part of an industry that inarguably aims its radio advertising squarely at young people.

Well, which is it? They seem to want it both ways — but what they really want is our children. Will yours be next? Think about it.

Mississippi Baptist churches celebrate 6,950 years of service

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission (MBHC) has announced that a total of 56 churches and one association, representing 6,950 years of Kingdom work, will reach significant milestones in the months to come and are urged to celebrate those anniversaries, according to MBHC Executive Secretary Edward L. McMillan.

"Each church that informs MBHC of their significant anniversary celebrations will receive a framed certificate and letter of commendation," McMillan said.

A significant anniversary is defined by the commission as 200 years, 175 years, 150 years, 125 years, and 100 years.

McMillan said the commission requests that any church celebrating a significant anniversary that is not included in the list below should contact MBHC at P.O. Box 4024, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (601) 925-3434. E-mail: mbhc@mc.edu.

175 years

(Organized 1833)

Carrollton (Carroll)
Good Hope (Winston)
New Hope (Cov/Jeff Davis)
Wahalak (Kemper)

150 years

(Organized 1858)

Arkadelphia (Lauderdale)
DeSoto (Clarke)
First, Buckatunna (Wayne)
Gum Springs (Simpson)
New Hope (Leake)
New Hope (X-tended)
Northside (Union Co.)
Rocky Point (Leake)
Rocky Springs (Yazoo)
Shiloh (Montgomery)

125 years

(Organized 1883)

Bethsaida (Neshoba)
First, Columbia (Marion)
First, Raleigh (Smith)
Gaston (Prentiss)
Gillsburg (Mississippi)
Lebanon (Benton-Tippah)
Longview (Pontotoc)
Midway (Leake)
Montrose (Jasper)
Pickens (Holmes)
Poplar Springs Drive (Lauderdale)
Rawls Springs (Lebanon)
Sabougla (Calhoun)
Sarepta (Calhoun)
Silver Springs (Pike)

Smyrna (Copiah)
Zion Hill (Copiah)
Itawamba Association

100 years

(Organized 1908)

Baxterville (Lamar)
Bay Springs (Jasper)
Bayou Talla Fellowship (Gulf Coast)
First, Beaumont (Perry)
Bethel (Lincoln)
Daleville (Lauderdale)
Eastport (Tishomingo)
Eddiceton (Franklin)
Eden (Yazoo)
Edna (Marion)
First, Lambert (North Delta)
Georgetown (Copiah)
Gershorn (Pontotoc)
Heritage Heights (Jones)
McCarley (Carroll)
Morgan Chapel (Golden Triangle)
Pearson (Rankin)
Petal-Harvey (Lebanon)
Pine Forest (Montgomery)
Springfield (Leake)
Steep Hollow (Pearl River)
First, Tutwiler (North Central)
Union South (Cov/Jeff Davis)
Vanilla (Lawrence)
Wellman (Lincoln)

Persecution of religious minorities in Iraq continues

WASHINGTON (BP) — Millions of Iraqis have fled their homes in order to seek asylum in neighboring countries, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was told at a Sept. 19 hearing.

Religious minorities, specifically the Chaldo-Assyrian Christians, Sabeen Mandaeans, and Yazidis, have almost completely evacuated the country, witnesses said.

The testimonies of key leaders working for resolution of the refugee crisis were heard in the second of two hearings held by the commission about religious freedom in Iraq. The focus of this hearing was the large numbers of refugees who have flooded surrounding countries during the war in Iraq and how the U.S. should assist these people groups.

Two million Iraqis have been displaced within the borders, while 2.2 million have left the country, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"They simply don't see a way to ever go home," Ellen Sauerbrey, assistant secretary of state for population, refugees and migration, told the commission in describing the mindset of religious minorities who have sought refugee status.

Intolerance and violent attacks toward these minorities have forced them to evacuate.

"The [Iraqi] government is dysfunctional and almost irrelevant," said Judith Yaphe, Middle East specialist at the National Defense University. With the instability of the central government and lack of power and resources, Iraqis have abandoned communal tolerance and diversity for homogenous communities in an attempt to gain stability.

Multiple civil wars between the Sunni and Shi'a Islamic sects have created a complex and extremely volatile situation, Yaphe explained.

The majority of the refugees are not religious minorities but are members of these Muslim sects who have been pushed out by sectarian violence and military offensives, Sauerbrey said.

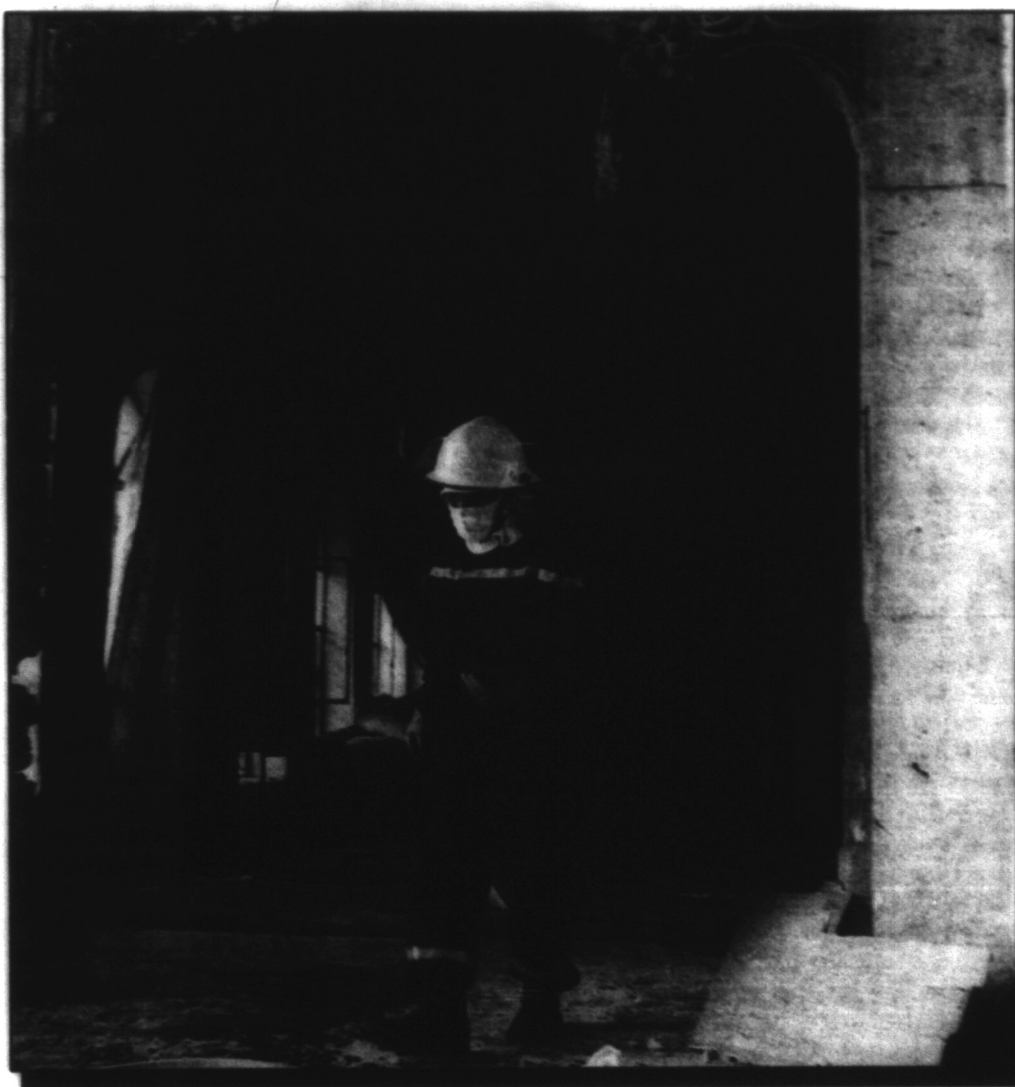
Witnesses also described refugee living conditions in temporary, rented housing. Food, shelter, and other basic necessities are difficult to get, mainly because Iraqis are unable to work without the proper visas.

"Prostitution has increased. Trauma and anxiety is widespread. Diminished assets make survival difficult," said Judy Cheng-Hopkins, UNHCR's assistant high commissioner for operations.

Efforts to aid refugees have gotten off to a slow start, admitted Sauerbrey, but she is hopeful about the next several months. "We are now moving along pretty rapidly," she said. The admission of refugees into the U.S. is set to increase dramatically in October.

The State Department also has worked to improve health and education conditions among the refugees in Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. Funds were given to long-established, religiously based NGOs that are familiar with the area, as well as the governments of neighboring states to help with educational concerns.

"The involvement of churches is so important [to the transition of the refugees]," said Sauerbrey. Sixty-two percent of the refugees



PERSECUTION WORRIES — An Iraqi fireman collects human remains at the Buratha Shiite mosque following a suicide bombing last year. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2007 report has Iraq on its "watch list" of countries that need monitoring because of religious freedom concerns. (Photo by Wathiq Khuzai/Getty Images)

who have already made their way to America are Chaldo-Assyrian Christians, she testified.

The establishment of the refugees within U.S. borders is handled by six faith-based groups located throughout the country, Sauerbrey said.

"The condition of these minorities is of special interest to me," said Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., who attended the hearing. Smith believes helping these refugees is "America's moral duty" but said the country has not done enough. He has proposed leg-

islation that will increase the number of visas given to Iraqis seeking asylum in the U.S.

Dana Graber Ladek of the International Organization for Migration agrees that a great deal more could be accomplished. "Increased funding is the best approach the U.S. can take," Ladek told the commission.

The U.S. government provided \$6 million to IOM, only a fraction of the \$86 million needed to provide food and shelter for the millions of Iraqi refugees, she said.

Mississippian selected

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Seminary administrator R. Clark Logan Jr. has been elected as vice president for business and finance with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, effective Oct. 15. Logan, 40, will succeed John R. (Jack) Wilkerson, who will retire Oct. 1 after 14 years in the post. Logan, a native of Bruce, has been senior vice president for institutional administration at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., since August 2004. He joined the seminary staff in 2000 as assistant director of admissions and was named director of development in January 2001. Logan was a computer analyst with State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, Ill., from 1990-92 and a State Farm agent in Water Valley from 1992-97 before entering the ministry in. He earned a master of divinity degree in evangelism and church growth from the seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth in 2001. He also holds master's and bachelor's degrees in business administration from Delta State University in Cleveland. The Logans have three sons: Trey, 12, Tyler, 10, and Wil, 6.



Logan Jr.

Looking back

10 years ago

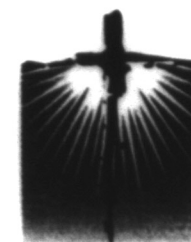
Over 20,000 Mississippi teens and adults gather in the early morning of Sept. 17 for the 7th annual See You at the Pole emphasis, according to Don Lum, youth consultant in the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

20 years ago

A total of 4,201 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ are made through Southern Baptist Centrifuge camps and church recreation conferences during the summer. At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 4,073, or about 16% of the participants, made public decisions.

50 years ago

Nearly 8,000 delegates to the first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men held in Oklahoma City are challenged by keynote speaker Carlyle Marney to "accept the conditions and challenges of a freedom we have not yet got."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 38



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

TEARS IN CHURCH

It was just a normal Sunday morning worship service. There was a great crowd. We had all been greeted, seated, prayed with, prayed for, and now we were standing and singing. The congregation and choir had joined in with the minister of music and praise team singing the words of that moving modern hymn, "You are God alone from before time began, you were on your throne. You are God alone. Right now in the good times and bad, you are on your throne. You are God alone — unchangeable, unshakable, unstoppable that's what you are ..." I did not know one person in the building — not the pastor, staff, a deacon, Sunday School teacher, greeter, or fellow visitor. I knew no one, but suddenly I was impacted by the majesty, meaning, and miraculous impact of this moment in worship where the message and music collided in the worshipper's heart.

It is impossible to describe the number of issues and areas of my own life that were brought before the very presence of the Lord as we sang, "You are God alone. You are on your throne." It was not just me who was hearing, seeing, and feeling. Tears began to come to my eyes as I thought of all of the ways that God had blessed me and the confidence that I can have in Him knowing that He cares about me and that my future is confidently in His hands. As I looked around a couple of rows in front of me there was a lady seemingly about 45



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

to 50 years of age who was wiping tears from her eyes with a tissue. A man who was seated one person away from her was also wiping tears from his eyes. A child sat between them. I watched as the man reached across to whom I suppose was his wife and he put his hand on her shoulder as the two of them continued to sing and weep. Seated right in front of me was an older gentleman who I would describe as a World War II veteran. He was with a younger couple and I assumed they were his daughter and son-in-law. He was singing and weeping all at the same time. The lady seated beside him found a tissue and handed it to him. He kept on singing and wiping his face.

I wondered what triggered such a response in his life and in the couple in front of them. Were they struggling with some significant health issue? Had they lost family, friends, a companion, or a child? I did not know, and we continued to sing. I was seated by a gentleman that was somewhere under 40 years of age. His pre-teen daughter accompanied him. Tears had filled his eyes also. He tried as inconspicuously as possible to wipe them away as he continued to sing. I wondered if the mother might be sick at home, or maybe she had died, or maybe they had been through a divorce. Possibly it had nothing to do with where she was because she may have been taking care of some kids back in the preschool area during the worship service. I did not know. All I knew was that his heart had been deeply moved in what seemed to be a meeting

with God about the needs in his life. We kept on singing.

Just glancing across the congregation I saw the same thing repeated over and over but tried to refocus my attention on just joining in with the music, the moment, and experiencing the challenge and the encouragement, the comfort and the elation of knowing that we can meet with God who can meet every one of our needs.

I thought about tears in the church and how tears are a God designed part of our very being. Tears have such a wide range of meanings and except for the ones that are flowing down your own cheeks, you may not know why they come or what they mean. For you see, sometimes they are glad tears. Through the years, I have had so many occasions to be at a moment in a place with someone who just burst out crying and with uncontrollable tears said something like, "I am just so happy!" I understand for I have been there.

At other times, tears are sad. Generally, we think that they are sad experiences, but not always. There are times when tears say more than words would ever say as a son or daughter stands at an

open casket and remembers all of the love and care, the tenderness, and sometimes the failings that came from not living up to her role as a son or daughter and mom or dad is now gone. Tears can come from the grief that comes from knowing that someone is gone and life from that point on will be a lonelier road to travel.

Sometimes there are mad tears. I have seen people get so angry about some situation that they were in, or facing, or watching that they could not say anything. They could only cry.

Of course, there are bad tears. Those are the tears that flow when we face the reality of our own sinfulness, and the fact that we have broken the heart of God. We have disappointed our friends, our family, and have miserably let ourselves down. Whether they are glad, sad, mad, or bad tears, they may be used of God to bring us into an encounter with Him that can set life on a different course.

As the worship service continued, there were other songs, prayers, and a wonderful message from God's Word. When the service was over it seemed as though we all went forward refreshed to face life with all of its ups and downs, rivers to be crossed, and hills to be climbed refreshed because we had the privilege of meeting with God. It was as if our tears were washed away and the Son was shining bright.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

FBC OLOH IS SEEKING a part-time music director to instruct choirs and lead worship services. Please call (601) 264-8868 or (601) 408-6005 or email fbcloh@megagate.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC and education needed: First Baptist Church, Boyle, Miss., is currently seeking a full-time minister of music and education. More details available. Contact us at fbcboyle@cablone.net. Send resumes via email or P.O. Box 218, Boyle, MS 38730.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/MUSIC. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of youth and/or music. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

CLEARVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, Miss., seeks a children's minister. Please submit resumes to M. Vance, 129 N. Eagle Ridge Drive, Florence, MS 39073.

BIG LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH, Wiggins, Miss., is seeking a part-time music director. Please submit resume to Big Level Baptist Church, attn: Elizabeth Ross, 1346 City Bridge Road, Wiggins, MS 39577.

MT. MANNA BAPTIST CHURCH, Coldwater Miss., seeking part-time minister of Youth. Send resume to Larry Hall, chairman search committee, P.O. Box 1055, Olive Branch MS 38654.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH, Columbus, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes

to music search committee, 1008 Lehmberg Road, Columbus, MS 39702.

WEST UNION BAPTIST CHURCH in Carriere, Miss., is searching for a part-time minister of music. Submit a resume to theptnms@yahoo.com or to WUBC 560 W Union Rd, Carriere, MS 39426, attn: music search committee.

NESHOBA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is seeking an Associational Director of Missions. Resumes or other correspondence, may be sent to Gene Dobbs, P. O. Box 416, Philadelphia, MS 39350, no later than October 31.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, Monticello, Miss., seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. If interested, please contact a representative of the church at (601) 587-2862, (601) 587-2881, or (601) 587-5075.

ARKABUTLA BAPTIST CHURCH in northwest Mississippi is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Pastor. Resumes can be mailed to pastor search committee, c/o Ernie Lentz, 2951 Bend Road, Coldwater, MS 38618 or can be emailed to dooginsplace@bellsouth.net.

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION is seeking qualified applicants for an accounting position(s). Accounting degree & trust accounting experience preferred. Please send resume, complete with references, salary history, & pastor's recommendation, to MBF personnel administration, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Please visit our website at www.msmbaptistfoundation.org for more information about the Foundation.

"Hearing is Believing"

For a **FREE** consultation call
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821
or go online at www.audioservices.org

Professional Sound
System Design and
Installation
Church / School / Commercial

**audio
SERVICES**
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

CLASSIFIED ADS

REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE: Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE & beachfront vacation condos. Fall specials, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama, www.gulfshorescondos.com. Two night efficiency sleeps 4 beachside \$234. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachside \$428. Two nights 1 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$328. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$461. Call (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524. Shrimp festival weekend not included, expires 10/31/07.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

FULL-TIME PASTOR NEEDED: Send resumes to Baptist Temple, attn: Henry Masson, 4200 South MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71302.

CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME seeking Christian House parents for boys home located in Northwest Alabama. Also, needing licensed Social Worker. For more information, please call (256) 356-8900 or (256) 810-4908.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. **CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY**, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

SALE: CHURCH FURNITURE, 18 pews, 13 1/2 ft, 2 pews, 16 ft. Tan cushioned seats and back, dark oak wood. One pulpit, 4 offering communion ware, Hammond organ. Call (662) 562-6587 or (662) 288-9046.

CLEARVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH of Birmingham, Alabama is accepting resumes for the position of full time Children's Pastor. Send resume to Clearview Baptist Church, attn: children's pastor search committee, 5271 Old Springville Road, Pinson, AL 35126 or email to connie@clearviewbaptist.com.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT: 2 bdrm/2 baths, sleeps 6. Full kitchen, view smokey Mt. from deck, \$95/night. For info email at pdw@worldnet.att.net or call (251) 689-9981 or (251) 689-9982.

Church's baptisms include tailgating celebration

ANDERSON, S.C. (BP) — The idea of tailgating before a baptism celebration might seem rather unusual to some, but at NewSpring Church, it's part of an effort to reach people with the creativity and relevance found in the Bible.

The fast-growing Southern Baptist congregation baptized 562 believers during a celebration staged in its parking lot with more fanfare and excitement than most churchgoers typically expect.

"We invited people to come tailgate before the baptisms like they would before a football game," said Tony Morgan, chief strategic officer at NewSpring in Anderson, S.C.

"People brought their RVs and set up tents. There were televisions going with people watching football games before the baptism service started," Morgan told Baptist Press. "People brought grills and they were making food for themselves and sharing with others. It was pretty fun."

The church, which is about 20 minutes from the Clemson University campus, set up three above-ground pools in the parking lot, and two pastors in each pool took about 90 minutes to baptize the 562 people, Morgan said.

Morgan believes it's entirely appropriate to party before a baptism because the ordinance is a celebration.

"It's acknowledging a commitment that someone has made with Christ, and it's something to be celebrated," he said. "Actually, I personally see our event to be more consistent with the purpose of baptism — people making a public statement of a faith commitment that they've made."

The September 8 baptism event was the culmination of a

five-week series preached by NewSpring pastor Perry Noble titled, "Illuminate," during August in which he compared a life without Christ to a life with Christ.

"Through that series we had around 800 people receive Christ," Morgan said. "So the final Sunday of the series Perry preached a message about baptism. In each of our four services, we baptized someone during the worship part of the service and then Perry taught about that."

NewSpring began as a Bible study for college students in Noble's home in 1998, and soon a core group of people cast a vision for the church plant.

"With a church on practically

every corner, it hardly seemed like Anderson needed yet another church," NewSpring's website says; "however, research showed that nearly forty-eight percent of the people in the county didn't attend church on a regular basis. So this core group had a vision: 'Why not create a church that would adhere to solid, Christian doctrine but would be entirely different from the other churches in the community?'"

The group chose to focus its ministry on three main areas: making the church the "most creative place of worship on the planet," doing everything with "110 percent effort, quality and effectiveness," and teaching people how God and the Bible

are relevant to their lives today.

In January 2000, 115 people gathered for NewSpring's first Sunday morning service on the campus of Anderson College, the website says. Six years later, they finished construction of a 2,500-seat auditorium and saw more than 900 people accept Christ and nearly 800 follow in baptism last year alone.

"All I can say is that Perry has committed to making the name of Jesus famous," Morgan said in assessing the rapid growth. "That's the sole focus for his ministry and for the ministry of NewSpring Church, in that everything we do in our worship services, everything we do through our ministry pro-

gramming, everything we try to communicate to our community reflects that focus. I think God is honoring that."

Granted, the sermon titles and some other things the church does can be a little edgy compared to most Southern Baptist churches. But the philosophy of the church's leaders is that creativity is necessary for accomplishing the Great Commission, as noted on the pastor's blog September 12.

"The apostle Paul said in Scripture that Christ must be preached... and NewSpring, you have my promise that HE will always be our focus!" Perry wrote, "BUT you also have my promise that church will never be boring — we do not have a boring God — His bride should not be boring either. The Bible is the most exciting book that has ever been written... and we will present it in its totality, with passion, sincerity and creativity!"

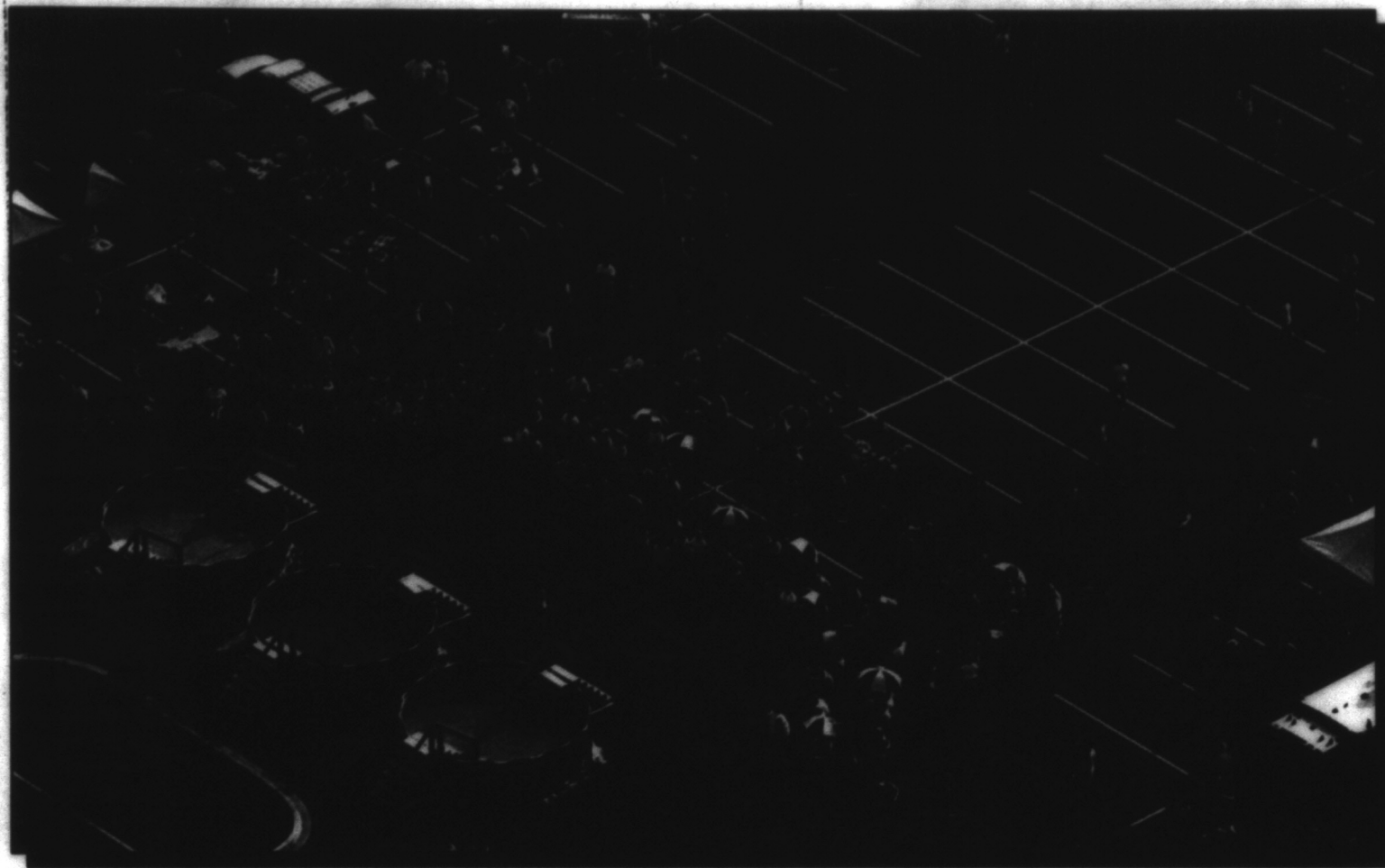
All age groups are catching on to the ministry style, Morgan said, including a woman who is 101 years old.

"The funny thing is we had tried to seat her in the back of the auditorium thinking she might not prefer the loud music, and she wants to be up front close to the action," he said.

With about 5,000 members but 8,000 in attendance on Sundays, Morgan noted that a lot of people who attend the church's services aren't members. Whether those people are searching or haven't finalized their commitments, he sees promise in the fact that they're gathering at all.

"I think it's a great thing when people in the church can come together and celebrate the transformation that Christ is making in people's lives," Morgan said.

BAPTISM CELEBRATION — NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C., issued an invitation to tailgate in the parking lot before a celebration of 562 people being baptized. (BP photo courtesy of NewSpring Church)



PURPOSE
DRIVEN
† LIVE LONG AND LOVE IT †
TOURS
www.PurposeDrivenTours.org

Branson, Nov. 5-9

\$675 dbl occ

5 days, 4 nights, bus, lodging and 7 meals

6 admissions:

*The Promise, Jim Stafford, lunch cruise,
Silver Dollar City, Kirby Van Burch,
Roy Rogers & Dale museum and show ...
and much more!*

Smokey Mtn. Christmas Dec. 10-14, 5 days 4 nights, \$700 dbl occ
Ski the Rockies Dec. 31 - Jan 5, \$880

CHURCH REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE

The Leavell Center Conference Series

WE SAW IT HAPPEN

Different churches in different circumstances that grew again

OCTOBER 11-12, 2007

**AT NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT. 1
CONFERENCE + DINNER: \$30**

HEAR from pastors who are front-row witnesses to how God is revitalizing all kinds of churches.

LEARN the important principles of growth.

LEARN how churches all over the SBC are making a comeback in growth.



Ed STETZER
DIRECTOR, LEAVELL RESEARCH
AUTHOR, COMEBACK CHURCHES
ALSO SPEAKING
ALAN FLOYD, CHAD GRAYSON
AND MIKE WALKER

LEAVELL CENTER EXCELLENCE

**If You Have
Lost Money
In The Stock Market**

And want to recover losses

We Can Help!

with a guaranteed
return of principal
Equity Indexed Annuity

13.2%

**First Year Guarantee
O'Mire Financial Services
406 Orchard Park Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157
1.800.844.3254
601.957.3841**

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Missions Organizations, Fredonia Church, New Albany



2. Construction planned, Dorsey Church, Dorsey



3. 125th Anniversary, Shivers Church, Shivers



4. RAs, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

1. Fredonia Church, New Albany, recognized their missions organizations Sept. 5. The children shared their mission projects and recited Bible verses. Shown are the participants.

2. Dorsey Church, Dorsey, will construct a 7200 sq. ft. addition to their church. Shown, center, are Gary Powell and Lanier Thompson; back row, Gene Loden, Alfred York, pastor Danny Rushing, and Jerry Guntharp.

3. Shivers Church, Shivers, celebrated its 125th anniversary July 15. Shown is Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission president Talmadge Smith presenting a plaque to pastor Wilson E. "Gene" Erwin.

4. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, recognizes its RAs. Shown are Clark Dean, John Cappeli, David Ochoa, Brandon Cochran, Eddie Plunkett, Charlie Plunkett, Ethan Griffin, and Eddie Cappeli.

5. Roy and Dorothy Gelston were honored and presented a plaque by First Church, Lexington, Sept. 9, for their service to the church. Roy Gelston served as Sunday School general secretary for over 40 years, and Dorothy Gelston served as church clerk for over 40 years, and served a number of years as church secretary. Shown are Sammy Massey, Roy Gelston, Dorothy Gelston, and pastor Wes Bonner.

6. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, celebrated its 125th anniversary. Shown is Talmadge Smith presenting pastor Randy Garner with a plaque noting the event.

7. West Heights Church, Pontotoc, ordained Rob Ray to the ministry Aug. 19. Shown are Ray and his wife Christy.

8. New Hope Church, Como, will host Second Chance in concert Sept. 30, 1 p.m. For more information, call (662) 455-4914.

9. First Church, Morton, is hosting the Scott County Extravaganza Outreach Ministry Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. which will include games, door prizes, face painting, music, drama, clowns, and other events. Concessions are available for \$25. For more information, call (601) 732-6664.

10. First Church, Greenwood, ordained Brad Moreman as deacon Sept. 9. Shown are pastor Joe Pate and Moreman.



5. Gelstons honored, First Church, Lexington



6. 125th Anniversary, Bunker Hill Church, Columbia



7. Ordination, West Heights Church, Pontotoc



10. Deacon Ordination, First Church, Greenwood

JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. Miller Recognized, Calvary Church, Pascagoula



12. Shepard Recognized, Standing Pine Church, Walnut Grove

11. Chris Carter, pastor, Calvary Church, Pascagoula, recently presented a special award to Min Miller for 54 years of service teaching Sunday School. Shown are Miller and Carter.

12. Standing Pine Church, Walnut Grove, recognized music director Ronnie Shepard for 17 years of service. Shown are Shepard and pastor Jim Burns.

13. First Church, Bellevue, Hattiesburg, will honor pastor Dewey Smith Sept. 30, 10:15 a.m., in recognition of 50 years of service.

14. Slayden Church, Slayden, ordained H.R. "Buzzy" Carpenter, Jr., left, and Randy Brock as deacons Aug. 19. David Bishop, pastor.

15. Onita Jamieson, portraying Margaret Lackey, visited Slayden Church, Slayden, Sept. 2. Ed Deuschle, director, Church Planting Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, brought the morning message. David Bishop, pastor.

16. Liberty Hill Church, Pope, recognized Lewis Snider for 43 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

17. Jonathan and Melissa Crosby and son Blake recently returned from Indonesia where they served as foreign missionaries. The couple presented a program at Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association July 29.

18. Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis, ordained Wayne Scarbrough as deacon Sept. 9. Shown are pastor Ralph Windle, Scarbrough, and Jessie Morgan Scarbrough.

19. The Timeless Treasures of Holcomb Church, Holcomb, honored Rachel Rose Sept. 9 with a party celebrating her 100th birthday. She is the oldest living member of the church, being a member since 1949. Shown are pastor Bob Johnson and Rose.

20. Star Church, Star, ordained Gus Bynum, Lee Peagler, Jason Bridges, and Joe Sharpe as deacons Sept. 9. Shown are pastor Vic Bowman, Bynum, Peagler, Bridges, Sharpe, and Tom Edmonson.

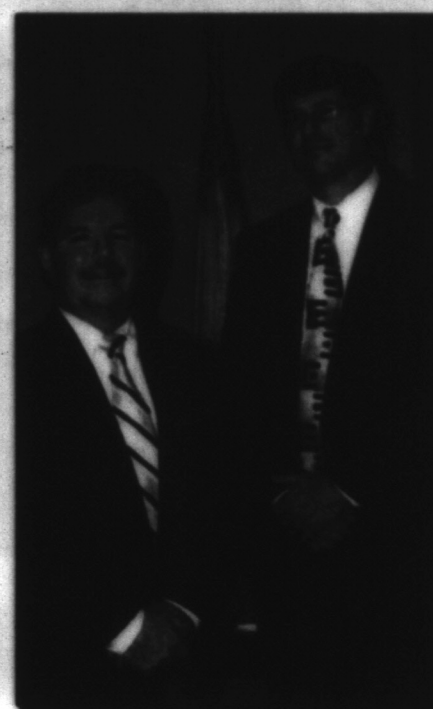
21. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, ordained Porter Wilks and Gannon Rogers as deacons Aug. 26. Shown are Sissy Wilks, Wilks, Randy Gardner, Rogers, Judy Rogers and James Robbins.



13. Smith Honored, First Church, Bellevue, Hattiesburg



15. Jamieson portrays Lackey, Slayden Church, Slayden



14. Deacon Ordination, Slayden Church, Slayden



16. Perfect Attendance, Liberty Hill Church, Pope



Visit us
online at
www.mbc.org



17. Missionaries come home, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah



18. Deacon Ordination, Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis



19. Rose Honored, Holcomb Church, Holcomb



20. Deacon Ordinations, Star Church, Star



21. Deacon Ordinations, Bunker Hill Church, Columbia

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

LNC FTBOO PVLNCTCLN,
LNC ESUPCT EBACLN; DKL
LNC PUTA UE UKT FUA
ONBSS OLBRA EUT CJCT.

VOBVBN EUTLM: CVFNL

Clue: F = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Five: Thirty-Four.

RiteBus • RitePrice • RitePlace
Talk to Bill Clark 601-750-2364
www.ritewaybussales.com



RiteWay Bus Sales
2069 Hwy 49 South, Florence, MS 39073

COLLEGE NEWS

The William Carey University Chorale will perform with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Oct. 12 at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson as part of the Mississippi's William Grant Still, Celebrating an American Master Composer concert. Presented by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Phil Hardin Foundation, and the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), the concert is part of the American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius NEA initiative - to acquaint Americans with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy. Tickets for the concert are \$15 general admission and \$5 for students with ID and can be purchased at the door or by visiting the website at www.msorchestra.com or by calling (601) 960-1565.



Mississippi College
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Mississippi College Librarian:

Special Collections Librarian responsible for the daily operation of the MS Bapt. Hist. Collection & the M.C. Archives. The 12-month position requires the MLS degree from an ALA accredited university. Experience necessary. This position requires effective computer skills, ability to work effectively with a variety of patrons, interest in assisting Baptist churches prepare for anniversary celebrations, and other typical library duties. Competitive salary. If interested in additional information, please contact the search committee at M.C., Phone 601-925-3434 or e-mail mbhc@mc.edu.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



22. Children's Choir, Goss Church, Columbia

22. The children's choir of Goss Church, Columbia, presented the musical Race to Win Aug. 5. Shown are the participants. Alicia Bass, choir director; Mark McArthur, pastor.

23. The preschool Sunday School classes and Mission Friends of Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, collected food to be delivered to the local Christian Food Mission. Shown are the participants.

24. Valley Park Church, Valley Park, recognized Addie Mae Holloway for 56 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. She is shown with Ted Porter, Sunday School director.

25. First Church, Lauderdale, ordained Marlon Lafferty as deacon Aug. 26. Shown are Ryan Culpepper, Lafferty, Ruth Lafferty, and Jimmy Culpepper.

26. Vaiden Church, Vaiden, hosted former youth director Joy McComb as she shared about her mission trip to Nicaragua. She is shown with Harvey and Rose Ray, who recently returned from a two-year mission project in Papua New Guinea.

www.mbc.org



23. Preschool and Mission Friends, Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel



24. Perfect Attendance, Valley Park Church, Holloway



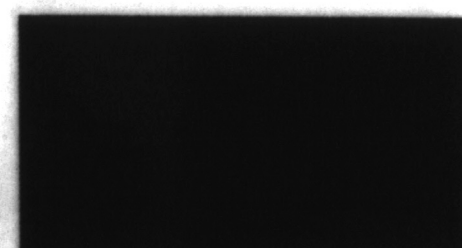
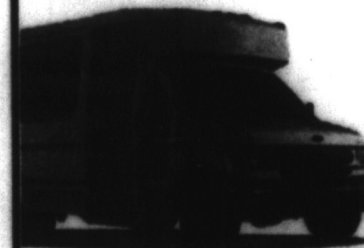
25. Deacon Ordination, FBC Lauderdale



26. Missionary McComb visits Vaiden Church, Vaiden

Is Your Van Safe? Send for a FREE CD!

Carpenter Bus Sales, the exclusive Bus Provider for LifeWay Church Buses, not only sells buses...we keep up with safety issues, legislation, regulations and insurance considerations... so you can make an informed purchase!



America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

1-800-333-1180 • carpenterbus.com

True Love Waits International to move into Africa

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — True Love Waits International officially launched its initiative to expand its abstinence-until-marriage message throughout Africa during a three-day summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, attended by representatives from eight African countries.

The summit's 43 participants were guided through a comprehensive True Love Waits International training manual with follow-up lessons. They also heard from leaders in Uganda and Kenya about successes in how the True Love Waits message has been implemented; most of the work True Love Waits has done on the continent has been in these two countries.

"The participants came with a sense of expectancy that did not diminish throughout the week," said Sharon Pumpelly, who serves as lead consultant for True Love Waits International, a ministry of LifeWay Christian

Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Pumpelly and her husband Larry introduced True Love Waits to Uganda in 1994 while serving as missionaries with the International Mission Board.

True Love Waits co-founder Jimmy Hester, one of the speakers at the Aug. 14-17 summit, added, "To illustrate the diversity of the group, there were medical doctors, pastors, denominational leaders, health organization leaders and abstinence leaders."

The common thread that brought the group together was a shared desire to see a movement of God among the youth of their countries through young people committing themselves to God's plan for their sex lives, Hester said.

"Many positive comments were shared that affirmed the summit successfully cast a vision for True Love Waits International," he said.

A highlight of the summit was individual reports from

each country. Leaders shared statistical information about their countries and what is currently taking place regarding sexual abstinence, and in particular True Love Waits.

One leader recounted how his country is reaching military personnel with the True Love Waits challenge. Another told how churches are being planted as a result of True Love Waits presentations and follow-up work. Nearly every leader reported how

True Love Waits has strengthened the ministry of churches.

Earlier this year, True Love Waits International received \$950,000 in funding as part of LifeWay's "A Defining Moment" philanthropic campaign, created to help touch the nations for Jesus Christ. The donations enabled True Love Waits to begin expanding in six African countries and the summit was the first step in that process.

"A Defining Moment has given us resources to be more proactive and intentional in our work in Africa, rather than just responding to requests," Hester said.

Since its introduction in Uganda 13 years ago, True Love Waits has been a catalyst for bringing people together to address the AIDS problem and spread the message of biblical purity to schools, youth groups and communities. In the years that fol-

lowed, Uganda's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate (the percentage of people living with HIV/AIDS) — which in some areas was above 30% — dropped to the current rate of 6.7% of the country's 25 million people.

True Love Waits has been a part of mission strategy for the International Mission Board for many years. In addition to Uganda and Kenya, True Love Waits is being used in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Swaziland and Mozambique, with a number of missionaries directly involved in the ministry.

"The majority of those that attended the summit are young African leaders who know the significance of the True Love Waits commitment and how it can affect the future of their countries," Hester said. "When we gave them the True Love Waits manual, their reaction was,

"Wow! This is really special."

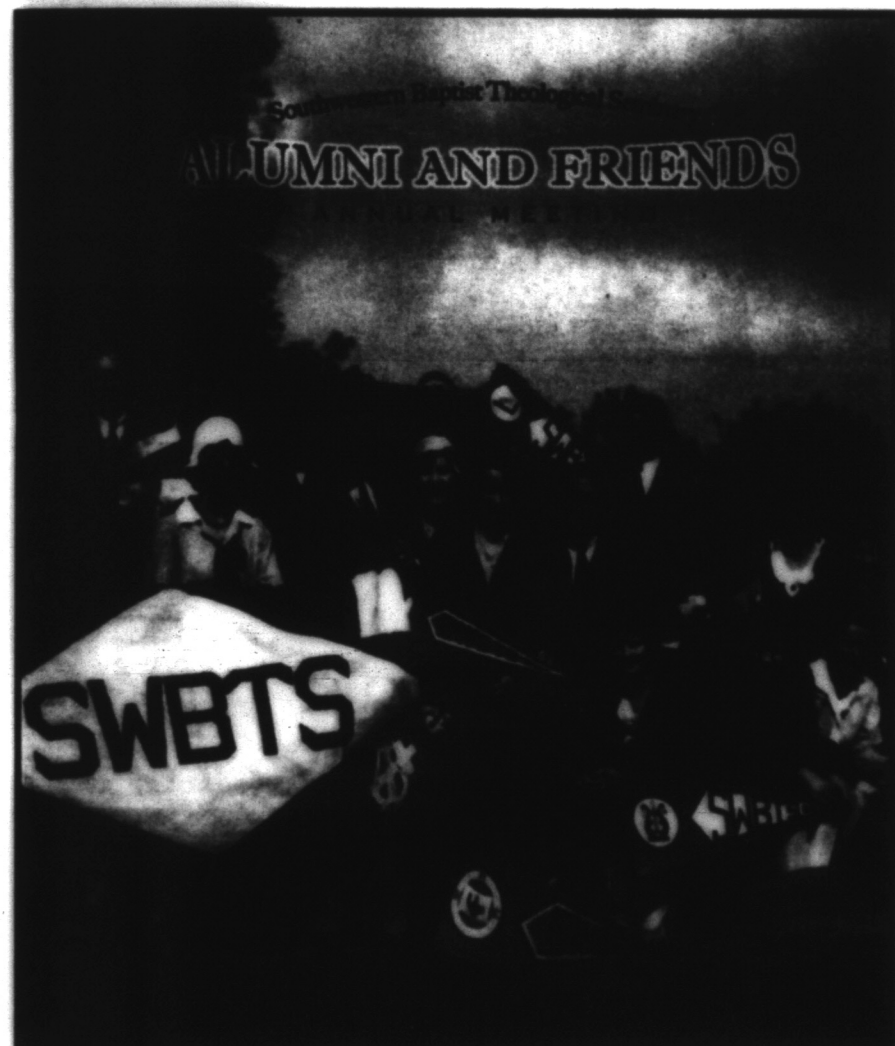
Echoing Hester's sentiments, Tshepo Kgalaeng from Botswana wrote in a follow-up e-mail, "I just want to say a special thank you for inviting me to the summit; [it] was an eye-opener and spiritually reviving. I'm looking forward to working with you, because Botswana is one country that needs the True Love Waits message."


Hester indicated that he and the other True Love Waits International team members have a sense of excitement about what God is going to do next now that the summit has concluded.

"When Richard Ross [now a Southwestern Seminary professor] and I first sketched out the concept for True Love Waits on a napkin, I never dreamed I'd be sitting in South Africa 14 years later," Hester said. "It's amazing to see how great God is and the magnitude of His plan."



WORKING TOGETHER — Participants at the True Love Waits International summit in South Africa discuss ways to expand the abstinence-until-marriage initiative in their countries. (BP photo)





www.swbts.edu

Tuesday, October 30, 2007
12:00 p.m. at Capital Club
125 S Congress St # 19
Jackson, MS 39201

Cost: \$15

RSVP to amd@winstonbaptist.org or 662-773-3366

HOMEcoming & REVIVALS

Antioch Church, Neshoba County: Homecoming, Sept. 30; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal, followed by afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Ray Spence and Rusty Walton, speakers; Kevin Thompson and local talent, music.

Carey Chapel Church, Red Banks: Homecoming and harvest festival, Oct. 7; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and games and singing, 1 p.m.; Carl Teel, speaker.

Center Terrace Church, Canton: Revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Allen Stevens, speaker; Judy Davis, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

Good Hope Church, Lena: Harvest Day, Oct. 28; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Wayne McGee, speaker; Dean Cook, pastor.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs: Revival, Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenny Digby, speaker; Perry White, music.

Holly Springs Church, Foxworth: Homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon singing; Robert Sones, speaker; Ron Jordan, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid: Homecoming, Oct. 14; musical guests, the Holcomb Sisters, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship dinner; P.J. Weeks, speaker; Marty Evans Jr., pastor.

Phalti Church, Pachuta: Homecoming, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m.; Mickey Walls, speaker; Freddy Odom, pastor.

Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba: Homecoming, Nov. 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; fellowship, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; Mike Ramage, speaker; Rickey Harris, pastor.

Union Church, Roxie: Homecoming and Revival, Oct. 7-9; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Tue., 7 p.m.; Lee Shipp, speaker; Andy McDaniel, pastor.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. The feature is especially designed to further honor youth leaders and workers, those who are and have been instrumental to the special fund.

SEPT. 11-24, 2007

HONORS

Margaret Barber
Ms. Grace McMillin
E. L. Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Ms. Burnett Brock
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Hardin
Capt. Hugh W. Olds Jr.
Emily Henderson
Mrs. Sally E. Stewart
Mr. Joe Hodges
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Mr. Robert Hudgins
Jerusalem BC-Kosciusko
Mrs. Bettye Johnson

Jerusalem BC-Kosciusko
George & Doris Lipe
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore
Greg & Cheryl Moore
Ms. Mary Lou Lott
Mrs. Barbara Ann Denton
Mrs. Barbara McCool
Faith SSC, Emmanuel BC-Grenada
The Body Fitness Group
Rev. & Mrs. J. W. Owen, Jr.
Joel & Shirley Hale
Bea & Dick Reynolds
Judy & Dave Lacy

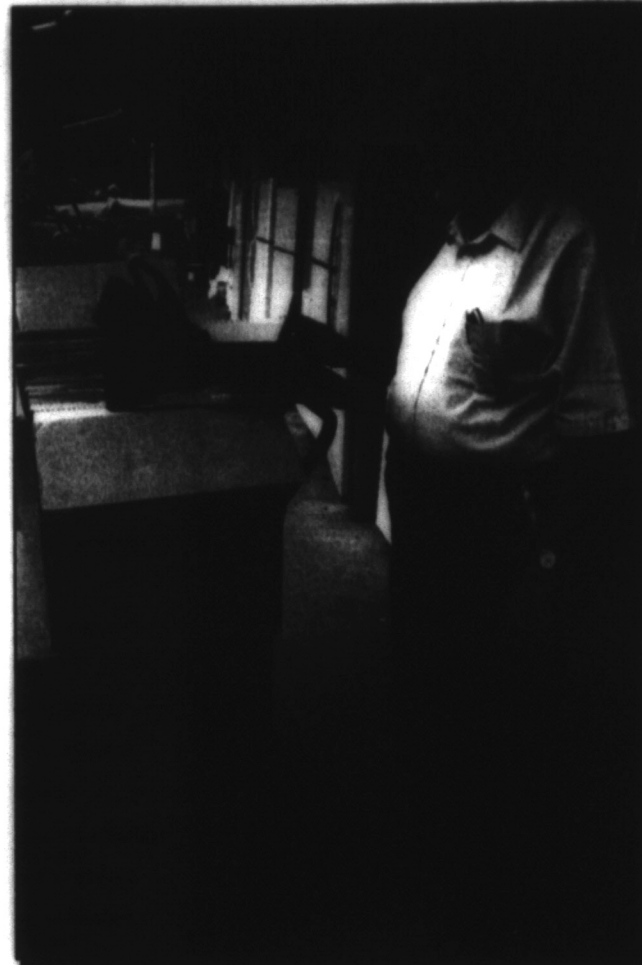
MEMORIALS

Mr. Steve Acton
Ms. Nancy F. Patrick
Bill Adams (Papa)

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wiggs & Amanda
Rev. Ira Alley
Steve Bryant Family
Karen Bryant
Chet Sisk Family
Tommy Watts Family
Mrs. Nylene Autry
Mrs. Juanita M. Hight
Anson Abbe Aven
Jimmy & Shirley Berry
John Barrett
Shuqualak Baptist Church
Don Neal Berry
Jimmy & Shirley Berry
Caldwell Bishop
McAdams Baptist Church-Sallis
Mrs. Ellouise Bishop
Branch Baptist Church
Tod Bishop
Ms. Birtie M. Kennedy
Mrs. Elwin Blizard
Ms. Billie C. McCully
Bill Bowen
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Eartha Bowman
Mrs. Opal C. Walters
Mrs. Bess Davis Bragg
Dr. Gwen K. Perkins
Mr. Matthew Gray
Ms. Debra L. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis R. Hopkins
Warren & Marilyn Thompson
Mrs. Marie Breland
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.
Mrs. Allene Barnes Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. George D. Hightower
Mr. Walter Barbee
Mrs. Hiram Davis, Jr.
Charles & Gail Davis
Mendenhall Elementary Faculty
Father of Mrs. Bridgette Britt
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Juanita Burrage
Hope SSC, FBC-Louisville
Ernie Cain
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Butler
Gladys Carney
Ms. Gloria N. Gladney
Erma Roberta Carr
East Louisville BC-Louisville
Rev. James H. (Jimmy) Caves
Gary & Mary Pierce
Mr. Eddie Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Poole
Mr. Roy Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Woodward
Ruth Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
John Conrad
Algoma BC-Algoma
Daymond Crowley
Mrs. Doris R. Young
Bobbie Nell Dabbs
Barry & Julie Baxter
Mr. Joe Dale
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dale Jr.
Mrs. Doug Dale
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dale Jr.
Mr. Bill Davis
Ms. Frances W. Davis
Mrs. Zelma Edmondson
Mr. & Mrs. Tom W. Doolittle
Dale & Sharon Hays
Mary Floor
Modene Davis & Family
Mike Franklin
Mr. Billy E. Trim
Ms. Toby Gaddy
Ralph Frizzell SSC
FBC Crystal Springs
Mary Martha
FBC Crystal Springs
Lana SSC-FBC Crystal Springs
Geneva Gardner
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner
Mrs. Melba Young Garner
Karl & Nancy Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Lendon E. Brown
Diane Garrard
Mr. James C. Brents Jr.

Mrs. Mae Garrett
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Thomas
Bella Katherine George
Ms. Nelda M. Pickle
Janice Gipsen
Open SSC, Cedar Grove BC-Columbia
Forrest Z. Goss
Ms. Georgia G. McCormick
Robert L. Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Doris Dempsey Green
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Mrs. Lucille Haddox
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Callender Jr.
Loyce Bell Halley
Ms. Elzene P. Bell & Jane
Ruby F. Hall
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Cecil Hardy
Mr. Henry Leonard Wilson
Mrs. Frances Richie Harpole
Eloise Crowley SSC, FBC-Columbus
Ms. Eleanor S. Slaughter
Mr. J. E. Spivey
Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Richie
Mr. Ed Spencer
Mrs. Robert C. Richie & Family
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Mrs. Doris Hart
BYKOTA SSC, Liberty BC-Liberty
Evelyn Helise
Ms. Brenda Helms
Mrs. Lorene Hissaw
Lanell Sherrard
Nancy Sherrard
Mrs. Jewel Holley
Young Ladies SSC
Hinkle BC-Rienzi
Maurine Humphreys
The Walton Speed Family
Marvin Hynum
Ms. Virginia Selden
Michael Pitts Jackson
Paul, Alice, Charles
& Suzann Buford
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Switzer
Mrs. Hermine Jacobs
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ervin Jr.
Mrs. Byrd James
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Hiram Davis, Jr.
Mrs. Zuma Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. McElroy
Curtis Jones
Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Allen
Dr. Robert E. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Maggio
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby
Mrs. Dorothy Kirkland
Ms. Jean Saucier
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry W. Cuevas
Bobby Lang
Mr. & Mrs. Aubry L. Hays
Judy McAllister Lawson
Mrs. Camille C. Honea
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Stewart
Ivy Jean Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Hubbard
Jessica Lott
Kathryn Bass Moody SSC-FBC-Poplarville
Moma Mae
Mrs. Opal E. Lott
Mr. Harold Mahaffey
Branch Baptist Church
Kenneth McCool
Adam & Ellen Joiner
Mike & Brenda Todd
Mr. Gordin McCool
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Dan McCullen
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Meade
Mrs. Annie McDonald
Hope SSC - Adult 6
FBC-Louisville
Mrs. Lee Audis Jayroe
Mr. Carl McElroy
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. McElroy
Mrs. Opal Inez Ard McGregor
Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Jacob
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward Jr.
Mr. Johnny Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Manning & Walker
Rev. Charles Moody
Mrs. Lee Audis Jayroe
Henry Moore
Mont Rose Baptist Church-Quitman
Reed Morganti
Floyd E. & Jacqueline B. Fuqua
James Stanley Moser
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Switzer
Lorena Newman
Sweet Spirit Singers, Liberty BC
Ms. Cathy R. Aldredge
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Milam
Mr. Fred C. Tallant Sr.
Mrs. Lorena Brister Newman
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Hakes
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Craft
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mrs. R. H. Bell Jr.
Jo Ann & Jimmy Carruth
Mrs. W. D. Newman
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark
Debbie Nowell
Philene & Stuart Allen
Bryan Paris
JoAnn & Jimmy Carruth
Mrs. Eunice Parker
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Callender Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin E. Harvey
Rev. A. J. Parnell
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick
Mrs. Gracie Doris Pittman
Miss Catherine McNeill
Mrs. Jewel Poindexter
Ms. Louise N. McCurley
Clyde Powell
Mrs. Jane H. Bailey
D. N. Ray
Philene & Stuart Allen
Jim M. Richey
Mr. James C. Peay
Strat Rounsavall
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Potter

Mrs. Mary Catherine Salloun
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Moody
Ms. John Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. John Moss
Ms. Tom Sanders
Mr. & Mrs. John Moss
Mrs. Clara B. Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Smith
Velma Sellers
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
James Morris Sims, Sr.
Mr. Lonnie Sims
Miss Annie Smith
Peter & Bessie Saway
Mildred L. Tyrone
Mrs. JoAnn Pace
Mr. John Smith
Mrs. Lee Audis Jayroe
Jamie Stephens
Doyle & Mable Daniel
Dora Stewart
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Nolan Sumner
Annie Pearl & Patricia Triplett
C. J. Talbert
East Louisville BC-Louisville
Burnita Thetford
Ms. Juanita West
Dot Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.
Mrs. Ethel Faye Thomas
Mr. Don E. Porter
Margie Todd
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Bevil
Mr. Mike Townsend
Forest Baptist Church-Forest
Mamie Tynor
Mrs. Opal C. Walters
Si Upton
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Uncle of Tamara Verdell
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Mary Wilson Wall
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Stewart
Mrs. Mary Ann Wansley
Jerry Grahams
Sanford Hollidays
Grace Porter
The Clifton Porters
Mr. Lenton V. Weatherford
Mrs. Mathis Holt
Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Hanvey
Evelyn Webb
Bovina Baptist Church
Marie Welborn
Mr. & Mrs. Danny F. Welborn
Mrs. Eve Wigley
Mr. & Mrs. Gibbs Goodwin
Mrs. June Wyatt



Bob Goolsby, Perry County Baptist Association AMD, delivered 79 pairs of new shoes to The Baptist Children's Village. The shoes were a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy James of The Shoe Tree in Waynesboro, Mississippi.

Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Charles E. Yarbrough
Mr. & Mrs. Art Lamkin

Mrs. Varnetta Yates
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Callender Jr.

Current Needs List:

Sponsors:

2 - \$100 sponsors for choir dresses

1 - \$150 for a student to participate in a UN Council

Cleaning supplies:

laundry detergent

scrubbing bubbles

lysol



The Baptist Children's Village recently served as host for the Southern Baptist Child Care Development and Communication Conference. This is an annual conference that provides continuing education and networking among the Southern Baptist Child Care Agencies. The states represented were: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee & South Carolina.



The Baptist Children's Village was given a great big surprise recently when The Sweet Potato Shed in Belzoni, Mississippi donated 2,000 lbs of sweet potatoes to the ministry. Those who made the delivery are pictured (L-R) Tucker Walsh, Reuben Hodnett and Dewitt Hodnett.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Reading the Handwriting on the Wall

Daniel 5:1-31 (Focal Passages: 5:1-6, 22-28, 30-31)

By Alice Smith

Perhaps you have heard someone say, or have said it yourself, "The handwriting is on the wall." This phrase is used to say that a person should pay attention to what is obvious. Another expression that is heard frequently is "weighed in the balances and found wanting." These are taken from the Bible and found in Daniel 5. Use of these expressions by people in all areas of the world is further evidence of the impact of the Bible on various cultures.

In Daniel, Chapter 5, we come to the end days of Babylon. The problem of pride is explored more deeply by looking at the problem of insolence. This insolence is not just

an arrogance and rudeness, it is an expression of the bold and dangerous disrespect of a human being toward our omnipotent God. Belshazzar, a successor of Nebuchadnezzar, reigned during this time while his father, Nabonidus, was fighting the Persians. There had been four kings between Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. It is clear from this study that Nebuchadnezzar's experience and acceptance of God in the last lesson was not translated into the heart of Belshazzar. We find him hosting a pagan feast and, in a drunken state, a fatal thought occurs to him that reveals his heart of insolence and disrespect and his feelings of superiority to Omniscient God.



Smith

tic revelers in praise of their gods of gold and silver.

Immediately, a hand appears and begins to write on a wall. Belshazzar is terrified. He cannot understand the message and calls for the mystics of the court, who also cannot interpret the message. History repeats itself. Hearing the furor, the queen mother comes into the banquet hall and she is used by God as she remembers Daniel. She recalls him being elevated to the chief position of the diviners of the kingdom—a man who could provide the interpretation. She describes him as being a special man of insight, intelligence, and wisdom.

In an act that speaks of defiance and disregard of God, Belshazzar calls for the vessels of gold and silver, which had been taken out of the temple in Jerusalem and dedicated to the worship of Yahweh, to be brought into the hall and used for drinking by the cul-

Daniel stands before the king and, after speaking of the history of Nebuchadnezzar, succinctly states the truth: (22-23; 30a HCSB) "But you his successor, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this. (23) Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven. The vessels from His house were brought to you, and as you and your nobles, wives, and concubines drank wine from them, you praised the gods made of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or understand. But you have not glorified the God who holds your life-breath in His hand and who controls the whole course of your life."

(30) "And that very night Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was killed."

These events remind us of the urgent necessity to evaluate our lives in this very moment. What choices are we making? Are they governed by the standard of right and wrong in God's eyes? The longer I live the more I am cognizant of the

brevity of life and the importance of the moment. This moment may be all we have. When we grasp this fact, it becomes obvious that the choices we make, our words, our actions, and the thoughts we allow to invade our minds are all-important.

"God evaluates each person. He weighs them in the balances. The real tragedy of one's life is to come up deficient on God's scale." (Lifeway)

Have you been weighed on the scales of God's justice and been found deficient? There is a remedy — that remedy is Jesus Christ.

It has been said, "There are no grandchildren in the kingdom of God." We are all children of His because of our acceptance of Jesus Christ. This is an individual, personal experience. It is all fresh and new as each person must decide for themselves to accept Christ as their Savior ... or not.

Smith is a member of First Church, Jackson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Take Part In Missions

Matthew 9:35-38; 10:5-14, 26-31

By Michael Smith

Burning bushes are pretty cool UNTIL they start to speak. The voice that spoke to Moses from the burning bush was the very voice of God informing Moses that there was a task to be completed. God called Moses to leave behind the nice little life that he had created for himself and go to Egypt where one stubborn Pharaoh and countless cantankerous Israelites awaited. The rout of Pharaoh was to be God's show. It would be God's words and God's power that would liberate the Israelites from Egypt's cruel grip. Moses' task simply was to represent God before Pharaoh. Moses was to be God's ambassador in Egypt. But Moses resisted God's mission. He shuffled through a host of rational

excuses before coming face to face with his disobedience. Moses ultimately relented when he began to perceive God's urgent compassion for the Israelites.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be on mission with God. We are to be Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), epitomizing Jesus' compassionate heart towards a broken world. Just as Moses, many of us resist God's call to engage the world in missions. We veil our disobedience with rational excuses, failing to grasp the urgent compassion that God has for the people that populate this planet. The Scripture passage for this lesson reveals that Jesus exemplifies God's compassion for lost and hurting people and that he sends us into this world as his ambassadors.



Smith

1. Need for Mission Work (Matthew 9:35-38)

Why should I be on mission with God? You should be involved in mission work because the need for mission work exists. There is a need for missions because there are people in need. Jesus sent

the disciples into the midst of people that were described as being weary and worn. The world that the disciples engaged was a world filled with "little lost lambs" that were endangered and disheartened. World weary people are eagerly searching for uncorrupted love and unconditional peace. Unfortunately, world weary people have searched in vain because they have searched in volatile places for lasting peace. As a result, world weary people are worn thin with despair.

2. Scope of Mission Work (Matthew 10:5-8)

Where should I be on mission with God? You should be involved in mission work wherever you are. Jesus limited the

scope of the disciples' mission work to a particular geographical region because he recognized that the disciples would be most effective where they were. There would be a time for the Gospel to spread to Samaria and there would be God-called people to spread the Gospel among the Gentiles. For now, however, Jesus wanted the disciples to engage the people where they were. The scope of our mission endeavors is unlimited in the "flat" world in which we live. We can certainly touch the lives of people who live abroad through our giving, going, and praying. Nevertheless, the place where we can be most effective in missions is the place that we are right now.

3. Guidance for Mission Work (Matthew 10:9-14)

How should I be on mission with God? You should be involved in mission work by depending upon the sufficiency of God. Jesus seemingly sent the disciples out empty handed. The empty handed disciples were literally dependent upon the sufficiency of God's provision through the kindness of strangers. You and I may not be

dependent upon others for sustenance, but we are dependent upon God to bring about his work of salvation in the lives of people that we engage. We should simply be Christ's ambassadors dependent upon the sufficiency of the Gospel.

4. Encouragement for Mission Work (Matthew 10:26-31)

When should I be on mission with God? You should be involved in mission work at every opportunity that your life presents you. The disciples were not to be deterred by danger or distracted by death. They were to be Christ's ambassadors regardless of the circumstances, even if the circumstances were dire. They were to engage in mission work confidently, knowing that God would care for them and take care of them. As Christ's ambassadors, we should not be deterred by danger or distracted by difficulties. We should engage in mission work trusting that God will care for us and take care of us regardless of the circumstances.

Smith is pastor of Bethel Church, Monticello.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

The Baptist Record

IMB retirees gather to celebrate 26,000 years of service

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — When you've served for more than 26,000 years, you deserve to celebrate.

As part of the International Mission Board (IMB) Year of Emeriti observance, nearly 1,000 retired missionaries united for the first time at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, the very location where many of them first heard God's call to missions.

The retirees who attended comprise two-thirds of the approximately 1,400 living emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries and served a cumulative total of more than 26,000 years on mission fields around the world, according to IMB estimates.

"You may feel that old, but you really aren't," IMB President Jerry Rankin joked as he paid tribute to the retirees at the Sept. 10-13 event. "As I look at you and realize what has gone before, how grateful we are that it didn't start with us youngsters. You represent a biblical model of following God as Abraham did. You represent a passion to worship God as Isaiah did, to say to Him, 'Here am I, Lord, send me.'"

"You had the vision of Paul, who was called to regions beyond and to do whatever it takes to get the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and long before we formulated a mission vision that we would lead all Southern Baptists to be on mission with God, you were fulfilling that vision."

Some of the retirees are moving slower these days. Some use canes, walkers, or hearing aids, but their passion for missions burns as bright as ever.

Jim Lochridge, 84, was the first to arrive for an evening celebration service at Ridgecrest's Spilman Auditorium. He sat middle center, sporting a royal blue island shirt and expectantly tapping a shiny bamboo cane. "You come early, you get the best seat," he said, cracking a grin. His wife Mary soon joined him, wearing a matching shirt and smile.

"We're on our 61st honeymoon," Lochridge declared, referring to their recent wedding anniversary.

Beginning in 1958, the Lochridges worked for 27 years in the Philippines, where he was president of the Southern Baptist College in M'lang. It wasn't his first time in the region, however. He saw action as a U.S. Marine in some of the bloodiest fighting in the Pacific during World War II.

Like many members of the great postwar generation of missionaries, he returned to Asia bearing not a gun but the Good News of Christ. "I saw the spiritual poverty in the eyes of those people, and I had to go



HOME FROM FIELD — Retiring missionaries Joe and Norma Powell (left) are recognized for 30 years of service in Venezuela by International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and his wife Bobby, who are both native Mississippians and graduates of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi college in Clinton. The Powells and 58 other new retirees joined nearly 1,000 emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries who gathered at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina Sept. 10-13. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

back," he recounted.

The Lochridges still lead Bible camps for boys and girls in their native North Carolina and other states, and some of their young campers have become missionaries. They also still tell people about Jesus.

"I evangelize anytime," he said.

'Flunked retirement'

The Lochridges' ongoing commitment to missions is shared by many of the retirees who gathered at Ridgecrest. Mission statesman Winston Crawley, 87, first came to Ridgecrest at age 7 with his preacher father. He went to China as a missionary in 1947 and later oversaw the Foreign (now International) Mission Board's overseas operations during decades of expansion to new fields worldwide.

He retired in 1987 but continues to teach missions both in the United States and abroad. "I flunked retirement," Crawley quipped. "I became a wandering seminary teacher."

Next year he plans to teach in Taiwan, he said, "Lord willing."

The emeritus missionaries, combined with the current IMB mission force of 5,234, account for more than a third of all the Southern Baptist missionaries who have served abroad during the board's 162-year history, according to Rankin.

Five served 45 years on their mission fields. Thirty-eight served 40 or more years.

Merrel Callaway, 91, was appointed in 1942. He served in Morocco and Yemen, he told fellow retirees, adding emphat-

ically, "It all was a joy!" Eleven others present also were appointed during the '40s.

Many of the missionaries started Baptist work in their countries of service. Many saw their children and grandchildren follow them into mission work. Hundreds had to evacuate their fields or take cover during wars, coups, and revolutions.

Harold Hurst, who launched Southern Baptist work in Honduras half a century ago, remembers three revolutions in one year — including one on his birthday.

"The kids were asking, 'Dad, are all those firecrackers outside for your birthday?'" he recalled. It was gunfire. Hurst still leads volunteer teams to Honduras several times a year as his health permits.

Living legends

If the cliché "living legends" ever applied to a group of people, it applied to this group, which included:

- Carl Hunker, 91, a China missionary who left the mainland one step ahead of the conquering communists. He went on to lead the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary for many years as president and dean.

"My life was evangelism, pasturing, and teaching," he said. It still is. "How much longer? That's in the Lord's hands."

- Jim and Betty McKinley and Tom and Gloria Thurman, who braved civil war, devastating floods, and famine to share the love of Christ with the people of Bangladesh.

- Sam and Ginny Cannata, medical missionaries who endured false arrest, life under communism, and several wars to make disciples during 35 years in East Africa.

- David and Max King, who pioneered seminary education for students throughout the Middle East during decades of service in war-ravaged Lebanon.

- Jurhee Philpot, who returned to serve in Mexico and Costa Rica after her husband Jim was murdered in Mexico in 1985.

- J.O. and Mabelee Terry, missionaries to the Philippines and Singapore, who helped develop the Bible storying methods now used to evangelize people groups around the world.

- Catherine Walker, 34 years in China and Indonesia, who extended her impact globally after retirement as the first director of the IMB international prayer strategy office in the 1980s.

Trading stories

The retirees attended conference sessions on current IMB mission strategies as well as workshops and exhibits highlighting such topics as successful aging, navigating retirement, short-term overseas opportunities, and mobilizing local churches for missions — but mostly they visited with each other, hugged old friends, and traded mission stories.

They also welcomed 60 newly retired missionaries into their fraternity. At a special service September 11 hon-

oring the new emeritus group, IMB president Rankin said their ministry will continue.

For missionaries, the word "retirement" is really a misnomer, Rankin said.

"Your call is irrevocable. You will continue to find avenues of service as you mobilize others in our churches. Many of you will be returning to the fields. You can't turn loose of the peoples and the places where you've invested your lives for many years," he said. "They're too much a part of your heart, and your heart is still there."

Newest retirees

The new retirees included Bill and Susan Smith, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to serve in the revolutionary role of strategy coordinator — a mission worker who mobilizes all the resources of the Christian world to bring the Gospel to an entire people group.

Also included were 15 missionaries who worked in Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa as the modern plague of AIDS swept the region. They brought help and hope to thousands of Africans nearly suffocated by hopelessness.

"During the early '80s, AIDS swept over the country," said Linda Rice, who served in Uganda with her husband, Jim, for 31 years. "It was a rich opportunity for witness. Christ's Gospel transformed lives."

"Those once gripped by fear of the disease became desperate to make every minute count in bold witness and exuberant worship. My own faith grew as I walked with them."

The new retirees and their older mentors also rubbed shoulders with 48 new missionaries appointed at Ridgecrest Sept. 12 by IMB trustees.

"We see it as being a link in the chain," said one new missionary headed to work among an unreached Muslim people group in Africa. "They've gone before us, and they're such an inspiration that we can do this too. It's like the great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 11. Man, these saints have done it."

"The Kingdom is going to have a lot of people because of these folks, and when they say they're gonna pray for you, they're gonna pray!"

How did the older saints advise the new workers to relate to the people they will serve?

"Just love them," urged Nettie Gammage, who served with her late husband, Al, in South Korea and the Philippines for 38 years, "and stay in touch with Jesus."